(c) whether any new initiatives have been taken towards the growth and production of synthetic fibre; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of the new grass-root units recommended by the Expert Committee constituted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Liberalised Licensing Policy for Synthetic Fibre would enable the existing synthetic fibre units with sub-optimal capacities to expand to a viable size.

Approvals for new grass-root plants are considered on merits on the basis of minimum capacity.

In addition, Broad-Banding is permitted in Synthetic Fibre Yarn industry with a view to have certain flexibility to respond to the emerging market trends.

Thermal power plants for Kerala

983. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has demanded the setting up of three thermal power plants in the State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) A proposal was received in July, 1987 from the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) for setting up a 100 MW power station with diesel generating sets at Cochin. The proposal can be taken up for techno-economic appraisal after all necessary clearances and inputs, such as those relating to availability of fuel oil on a sustained basis and environmental clearance, have been tied up by the KSEB.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has submitted to the K.S.E.B., as their consultant, a project Report for setting up a thermal power station (2X210 MW) in Kerala in the State sector. The Report is under consideration of the State Government and the K.S.E.B.

Foreign collaboration for the Bakreshwar thermal power plant

984. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has forwarded to the Centre the bids by two prospective foreign collaborators for the proposed Bakreshwar thermal power plant;

(b) if so, whether any decision has since been taken thereon; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) For the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project, which is a State Plan scheme, two unsolicited offers were received by the State Government and were forwarded to the Government of India for consideration. These offers were submitted by a Consortium led by M/s. Technopromexport (USSR) and by a Consortium comprising M/s. C. Itoh & Co., Japan and M/s. Kuljian Corporation, USA. The offers were subsequently modified by the two Consortia. The acceptability of the offers has not yet been decided.

Hazira petro-chemical complex

985. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat's application for a petro-chemical complex near Hazira is pending clearance by Central Government; if so, what are the impediments in clearing the project;

(b) whether the Gujarat Government has supplied the necessary information required by the Central Government in this regard;

(c) by when this petro-chemical project is likely to be cleared and by when it will be commissioned; and

(d) what will be the direct and indirect employment potential which this petro-chemical complex will create when completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) Some applications for the setting up of a petrochemical complex in Gujarat have been received. Final decision on these applications will be taken after a number of issues relating to availability of feedstock, tie up of resources etc., are resolved. Details about these applications are not disclosed till a final decision is taken on them.

Price decontrol medicines

986. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is proposing to expand the list of price decontrol medicines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is proposing to abolish profitability control on drug industry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has not proposed any limits on free samples of medicines to medical professionals trade discount, Retailers Commission and Advertisement expenses;

(d) whether it is also a fact that neither control on profitability nor on expenses has been proposed in the measures;

(e) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of any degree of control, taxable profits of Drug Industry would decline on one side and consumer will be looted on the other; and

(f) if so, what are the details of the measures proposed to save such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Details of the measures announced by the Government in December, 1986 are contained in the booklet—"Measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs & Pharmaceutical Industry in India" copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(d) to (f) The new Drug Price Control Order based on the new measures has not yet been announced by the Government.

Manufacture of Rifampicin in the country

987. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the considerations on which manufacture of Rifampicin has been allowed in the country from the penultimate stage;

(b) what is the name of the penultimate from which production was allowed;

(c) the names of the companies which have been allowed production from this stage alongwith the licensed capacity of each;

(d) whether such approval is based on phased manufacturing programme;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) whether his Ministry has fixed fair price of this drug after technical-cum-cost study;

(g) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reasons therefor; and

(h) whether it is a fact that the import contents in the production of 1 kg. of drug is much more than the finished drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND